



SHARPE JAMES
MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

August 10, 1999

Mr. Frank Hutchins
Director, Greater Newark HUD Tenant Coalition
944 Broad Street 3rd Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mr. Hutchins:

Thank you for your letter of August 10, giving your concerns over the shortage of lead inspectors in Newark.

I heartily agree with you that Newark needs more inspectors. We have been actively working to resolve this shortage, and we are seeking applicants for the vacant positions. Until we can resolve this shortage, we are urging all of our citizens to take action on their own against lead hazards.

One of the issues we have to address in hiring inspectors is that they must meet state requirements for certification in their jobs. Doing so takes time and training. We are working actively with our many private and public partners on this matter.

As Newark's chief executive, I am gravely concerned with lead hazards in our homes, shops, and schools. As a father of three, I am even more concerned with the threat lead poisoning poses to our children. You can be assured that I am giving this issue my fullest attention. Thank you for your concern.

All the best!

Sincerely yours,


Sharpe James
Mayor

SJ:dhf



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